

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior claims presented in the application.

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A recombinant protein variant (rMal d 1 (2781)), comprising the sequence defined in SEQ ID NO: 2 with the ability to induce a protective immune response to a naturally occurring allergen, wherein the naturally occurring allergen is *Bet v 1*;

~~wherein the protein variant is a variant of a scaffold protein *Mal d 1* having a three-dimensional folding pattern that is structurally similar to that of the naturally occurring allergen, said protein variant comprises two or more primary mutations spaced by at least one non-mutated amino acid residue, each primary mutation introducing into the scaffold protein at least one amino acid residue identical or homologous to the amino acid residue or residues in corresponding position in the naturally occurring allergen,~~

~~and compared to the scaffold protein, the recombinant protein variant has an increased affinity and/or binding capacity to IgE antibodies that are specific to the naturally occurring allergen.~~

27. (Currently amended) A recombinant protein variant (rMal d 1 (2762)) comprising the sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO: 3, with the ability to induce a protective immune response to a naturally occurring allergen, wherein the naturally occurring allergen is *Bet v 1*;

~~wherein the protein variant is a variant of a scaffold protein *Mal d 1* having a three-dimensional folding pattern that is structurally similar to that of the naturally occurring allergen, said protein variant comprises two or more primary mutations spaced by at least one non-mutated amino acid residue, each primary mutation introducing into the scaffold protein at least one amino acid residue identical or homologous to the amino acid residue or residues in corresponding position in the naturally occurring allergen,~~

~~_____ and compared to the scaffold protein, the recombinant protein variant has an increased affinity and/or binding capacity to IgE antibodies that are specific to the naturally occurring allergen.~~

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A recombinant protein variant with the ability to induce a protective immune response to a naturally occurring allergen, wherein the naturally occurring allergen is *Bet v 1*,

wherein the protein variant is a variant of a scaffold protein Dau c 1 having a three-dimensional folding pattern that is structurally similar to that of the naturally occurring allergen, said protein variant comprises two or more primary mutations spaced by at least one non-mutated amino acid residue, each primary mutation introducing into the scaffold protein at least one amino acid residue identical or homologous to the amino acid residue or residues in corresponding position in the naturally occurring allergen,

and compared to the scaffold protein, the recombinant protein variant has an increased affinity and/or binding capacity to IgE antibodies that are specific to the naturally occurring allergen.

30. (Currently amended) A protein variant according to claim 29, wherein the Dau c 1 scaffold protein is Accession No. T14325 comprising the sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO: 4 and wherein at least two primary mutations are selected from the group consisting of: (S12V, S12L, S12I, S12M), (S14P, E16A, P105A, A107P, (A148S, A148T), (I151L, I151V, I151M), (N153H, N153K, N153R), (+154S, +154T), (+155D, +155E), +156A, (+157Y, +157F), (+158N, +158Q), (K39S, K39T), (K44E, K44D), (V52I, V52M, V52L), (I54K, I54R, I54H), (T64K, T64R, T64H), (T65Y, T65F, T65W), (T67K, T67R, T67H), D86E, L91G, (G92D, G92E) and optionally one or more secondary mutations are selected from the group consisting of: K32X, E42X, E59X, R69X, E95X, K122X, E8X, T10X, D25X, D46X, D108X.

31. (Currently amended) A protein variant according to claim 29 wherein the Dau c 1 scaffold protein is Accession No. T14325 comprising the sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO: 4 and

comprises at least two primary mutations selected from the group consisting of: (S12V, S12L, S12I, S12M), S14P, E16A, P105A, A107P, (A148S, A148T), (I151L, I151V, I151M), (N153H, N153K, N153R), (+154S, +154T), (+155D, +155E), +156A, (+157Y, +157F), (+158N, +158Q) and optionally one or more secondary mutations selected from the groups consisting of: K32X, E42X, E59X, R69X, E95X, K122X.

32. (Currently amended) A protein variant according to claim 29 wherein the Dabc1 scaffold protein is Accession No. T14325 comprising the sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO:4 and comprises at least two primary mutations selected from the group consisting of: (K39S, K39T), (K44E, K44D), (V52I, V52M, V52L), (I54K, I54R, I54H), (T64K, T64R, T64H), (T65Y, T65F, T65W), (T67K, T67R, T67H), D86E, L91G, (G92D, G92E) and optionally at least one secondary mutation is selected from the group consisting of: E8X, T10X, D25X, K32X, D46X, E59X, E95X, D108X, K122X.

33-92. (Canceled)